



HeadLines

I was pleased and proud to note that this year, for the first time, we feature in the top ten Hertfordshire State secondary schools in terms of our GCSE results.

Much column space in newspapers has been dedicated to the new academies which have been created all over the country, sometimes to replace failing schools and sometimes to create a centre of excellence around an outstanding school. Mrs Mangan and I were invited by the Specialist Schools Trust to visit one such academy on Wednesday. It was an academy with ‘a twist’ in that it had grown from an independent girls’ school in Liverpool. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit which had been arranged because the work of our school has been recognised at national level and we had been asked to take some of our good practice to other schools.

It is challenging not to be envious of the money being poured into the academies for buildings; £60 million projects are not uncommon. In the case of the school we visited this week, they ‘only’ had a £10 million building project. We continue to fight for further buildings for this school and, as you know, we have had some success but when everything is taken into consideration, The Hemel Hempstead School provides a high quality education and excellent outcomes for students despite some teaching spaces which are in dire need of replacement. Our teaching quality is outstanding! That is not to say that we wouldn’t be happy to accept a new Performing Arts Block or a Sports Hall!

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

House Cup

Pendley	Ashridge	Nettleden	Latimer	Chalfont	Flaunden
500	445	390	380	370	350

Since its launch before half term, many students have worked hard in earning points for their House. In the last three weeks there have been four main activities that have counted towards the House Cup:

House Drama – a marvellous evening where all Houses earned points for their House, with bonus points awarded to those Houses who won shields. Well done Ashridge on winning a fantastic event.

Headteacher Commendations – many students were awarded Headteacher Commendations and there will be a half-termly count of these awards that will contribute points towards the House Cup. Congratulations to Nettleden for being awarded the most Headteacher Commendations.

House Art – points were awarded for outstanding pieces of art created in House Art to promote the House Drama Festival. Congratulations to Pendley for earning the most points.

Attendance figures were collected for last half term and Pendley had significantly the most consistently high attendance rates across the year groups. Well done Pendley!!

So far Pendley have done very well in House activities and have made a great start. However, it is still all very close and the other Houses will have plenty of opportunities to challenge for the House Cup. In the following weeks there will be other activities in the school that will count towards the House Cup: these activities include uniform checks, commendation counts, attitude to learning report summary, further work in House Art, House initiatives, such as House Newsletters and House Christmas Decoration Competition.

Mr. J. Mitchell

Auditions for Rock Challenge

Auditions for next year's Rock Challenge will take place on Thursday 22nd November 2007 as follows:

Years 7 and 8 at lunchtime in PA1

Years 9 and 10 from 3.30—5pm in PA1

Dance Nation Show

Reverb will be performing Dance Nation Show at Lion Theatre, Longdean School on Saturday 24th November at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available on www.dancenationshow.co.uk

Mrs C Lang, Dance Department

Children In Need XFactor

Auditions took place for XFactor today when our judges whittled the hopefuls down to the final ten (names will be released on Monday). However, their job is done and now the decision is down to you. On Friday 23rd November at 7pm, the ten remaining acts will perform, including the Staff Choir, fighting for your votes to win The XFactor. It's a show not to be missed. Tickets will cost £3 and are available at Student Services. Every penny goes to Children In Need, so please support the performers and this great charity.

Matthew Gill 10A

Partnership link with Mgezwa School, South Africa

During the past week, the main school assemblies were taken by Mrs Bailey, Miss Dayton and Mrs Botha. The theme was our partnership with Mgezwa School in South Africa. They were privileged to visit the school over half term and were able to share with our students both the similarities and differences between us and the potential there is for each school to learn from the other.

Forming a link with a school abroad allows students in both institutions to become more aware of global dimensions, such as sustainable development, the interdependence of nations and social justice and equity. Students can share what is common in their subject learning, celebrate what is different and learn about their partners' lifestyles and culture. At the same time, we aim to encourage enterprise and a willingness to develop understanding of fundamental human values.

As a Performing Arts School, we were particularly interested in the music, drama and dance of the South African school and the teachers went out armed with recording equipment. The aim is to produce a CD with the songs of both the Mgezwa and our own choirs on it—and, thanks to the wonders of technology, even sharing songs— then to sell these CDs to raise funds for the Partnership between the schools. The standard of singing recorded at Mgezwa was astonishing, as your sons and daughters will confirm, having watched the video of a recording session in assembly. But we are confident that our choirs can also produce a wonderful sound and that the CD will be well worth purchasing! Please look for it in January 2008 and buy as many copies as you can.

While both schools have high standards academically, in the Arts and in sport, it was clear to us that there is a major differential between the schools in terms of resources. The Partnership is emphatically not a one-way charity exercise—it is a mutually supportive partnership for learning. But we are lucky enough to have two sponsors, Student Awardz and Team Strides who have offered to help ship over to Mgezwa some tea chests of books which have become superfluous during the re-stocking of our library. The website address for Student Awardz is www.studentawardz.co.uk and contains photos and music.

We would like to fill the tea chests with pens, pencils, rulers and exercise books. The students at Mgezwa have to provide all stationery for themselves and many come from basic homes, some without water or electricity. Their enterprise in making homemade toys and articles such as lanterns is impressive: perhaps our students could show equal enterprise in finding the resources to furnish their fellow learners with the small articles of stationery they cannot make themselves.

If you and your children would like to donate any of the following items, please bring them to Student Services by Thursday 29th November: pens, pencils, maths equipment eg. compasses, protractors, calculators, exercise books. 6-11 year olds also attend the school so any storybooks or practical toys or games to encourage learning through play would be valued.

We are very excited to be starting this partnership. We have much to learn and gain and much to teach and give. We hope that you will feel keen to support the school in this international link and will buy lots of copies of our CD when it comes out after Christmas!

Ms N Darby, Assistant Headteacher



Year 5 and 6 Gifted and Talented Music Day

On Wednesday 31st October Mrs Holling organised a music day for Year 5 and 6 students from our link Junior schools. There were 38 musicians along with four Year 8/9 students and some Sixth Form students. The young pupils learnt a samba with Miss Poat using lots of different percussion instruments. Some joined in with our steel pan groups and they all sang a very hard song with the Chamber Choir and learnt an ensemble piece with their own instruments. Some of the string players even played along with our string group! At the end, they performed a mini concert for their parents who were all very impressed. They all did very well and we think that both Mrs Holling and Miss Poat deserve a big thank you for organising such a fantastic and successful day. We know we all really enjoyed it!

Lamorna Hooker 8P, Josie Mills 9F

House Drama Festival 2007

As new members of the teaching staff, we were impressed and delighted with the dedication and commitment displayed at House Drama. In a relatively short rehearsal period, houses presented some sophisticated pieces with a real sense of teamwork and ensemble.

One of the highlights of the evening was seeing such a range of year groups working alongside each other, with some outstanding performances coming from both ends of the age spectrum. Year 7 showed particular skill and commitment in their renditions of the protagonists of the story; a great achievement for such new members of the school body.

We were particularly impressed with the directors involved. The direction of the pieces showed real flair and creativity in treating the subject matter, and congratulations should be extended to the house captains for their efforts.

It was an extremely close contest and after much deliberation Ashridge House was judged to be the winner closely followed by Pendley House in second place and Latimer House in third.

Ms S Kydd and Ms K Smith



Library Notice

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in the Library from Tuesday 20th November until Monday 26th November. It will be available for browsing and buying during break and lunchtime and after school. Parents are most welcome to visit the Fair.

Mrs E Krajewski, Librarian

Fair Processing Notice

The Fair Processing Notice summarises the information held by the School about students, why it is held and the third parties to whom it may be passed on. This Notice has been updated and a copy distributed to all students today.

PTA NEWS

Jumble Sale

Jumble Sale: Saturday 17th November at 10 am

This is tomorrow at 10am in the main hall. We will be setting up from 4pm today. We would be grateful for any help with this and will be at school until 7pm.

Judith Stallworthy, Chair HHSA (01442 393266 or mobile 07749 727350), Email: s.stallworthy@sky.com

Year 7 Visit by Legion XIII

I enjoyed the Roman Legion visit very much. It was lots of fun and we learned many facts such as: women were not allowed to join the Roman army and girls were not allowed into school. We also had a competition which involved following Latin instructions which were used in the Roman army. I won the competition. Some of us got to dress up and we all got to see and touch Roman artefacts. We were taught how the Roman army were so indestructible because of the way they were positioned. Also we were shown how the slaves, rich families and members of the Roman army were dressed. We participated in the dressing up and were shown how arrows were shot and javelins thrown. I am really glad I went and I am extremely grateful to the Roman Legion for coming in. Thank you to Ms Akeroyd for organising this.

Nicola Kennett, 7N



Headteacher's Commendations

For excellent work in Games: James Ford 10L, Ryan Campbell 10F.

For excellent work in Science: Olivia Church 7A.

For excellent work in French: Emma D'Amery, Elizabeth Merrill, Dionne Donaldson, Madie Johnson 7L.

Sport



FIXTURES

Saturday 17th November

Football v Longdean

Monday 19th November

U16 District Football v Astley Cooper (H)
3.30>5.30pm

U14 Basketball v JFK (H) 3.30>5.30pm

Tuesday 20th November

Years 7/8 Girls Football @ Cavendish 3.30>5.30pm

Wednesday 21st November

U18 Basketball v JFK (H) 3.30>5.30pm

Thursday 22nd November

U15 Basketball v Longdean (H) 3.30>5.30pm

Saturday 24th November

Football v Marlborough tbc

RESULTS

Year 7 Football ESFA

Walk over into next round

Year 9 Basketball

v St Columba's College lost 96-62

U18 County League Basketball 81-37 lost v Westfield

News

With another packed term of fixtures, the various Hemel Hempstead School squads continue to perform well against our local rivals as well as schools across the County. Keep up the hard work!

Congratulations this week have to go to George McCausland, 7L, who has been selected for the U13 District Cricket Squad. Well done George!

Fundraising

Bag packing for all Sports Tourists on Saturday 10am—4pm at Sainsburys.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Sports Tour Fundraising Quiz on Friday night. In total we raised £1650, which is fantastic!

Miss E Bevan, Learning Leader: PE

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter No. 61 Year 10 Extra curricular GCSE Art Trip

Letter No. 62 Year 7 Interim Report

Letter No. 63 Year 9 Interim Report

Letter No. 64 Year 10 Interim Report

Letter No. 65 Year 11 Interim Report

Letter No. 66 Year 9 Activity Week

Letter No. 67 Year 12 Geography Field Trip

Gold Letters are also available via our website—www.hhs.herts.sch.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Blue Week

Mon 19th Nov	Year 7 Science Trip
Tues 20th—Mon 26th	Scholastic Book Fair
Weds 21st Nov	Year 11 Parents Meeting re:Prom, Sixth Form Study Centre 6.30pm
Thurs 22nd	Year 9 Trip to Globe/Tate
Fri 23rd Nov	Children in Need XFactor

Gold Week

Mon 26th Nov	Year 13 PE Revision Conference
Thurs 29th Nov	Year 13 English Trip
Fri 30th Nov	Year 13 Ethics and Philosophy Trip
	Occasional Day—School closed



School answerphone for sickness or absence

Please will all parents contact us **daily** if your child is sick, going to be in late due to a medical appointment, or is absent for any other reason. Please call our school answerphone on **01442 390103** by **9am if possible**